



Welcome to the *Green Power News Update*. This is a summary of the stories that ran during **March, 2015**. New stories are added throughout the month to make sure you always know what is happening in our fast-changing industry. Check back often to see what's new!

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Green Power

Bureau of Reclamation Small Conduit Hydropower Development and Rural Jobs Act

Status: Passed the U.S. House and Senate. Signed into Law on August 9, 2013.

- The Bureau of Reclamation Small Conduit Hydropower Development and Rural Jobs Act (H.R. 678), sponsored by Rep. Scott Tipton (CO-03), is a bipartisan legislation designed to create new American jobs and expand production of clean, renewable hydropower.
- Hydropower is one of the cheapest and cleanest forms of electricity. Expanding development will help lower energy costs for American families and small businesses while protecting the environment.
- The bill authorizes hydropower development, streamlines the regulatory process, and reduces administrative costs for small canal and pipeline hydropower development projects.
- New hydropower development would only take place on existing Bureau of Reclamation canals and pipes. Such man-made facilities are already on disturbed ground, have no environmental impact and have already gone through environmental review.
- This legislation could help facilitate hydropower development in at least 373 of the federal agency's canals and pipelines, as identified in a Bureau of Reclamation March 2012 report.
- The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office estimates the bill will generate federal revenue over 10 years through increased hydropower production at no expense to American taxpayers.
- The bill protects water users by reaffirming supply and delivery as the first priority, and it ensures that there will be no financial or operational impacts to existing water and power users.
- The bill is endorsed by the Family Farm Alliance, the National Water Resources Association, the Association of California Water Agencies, the American Public Power Association, the Colorado River Energy Distributors Association, and the Agri-Business Council of Arizona.
- The House of Representatives passed nearly identical legislation during the 112th Congress with bipartisan support.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, 3/26/15

Department of Energy, Department of the Interior and Army Corps of Engineers Renew Five-Year Partnership to Advance Hydropower

The U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Department of the Interior and U.S. Department of the Army for Civil Works announced today that the three agencies have extended their partnership to advance hydropower development for an additional five years. The renewal agreement signed today commits the agencies to a specific, ambitious agenda for hydropower, building upon their Memorandum of Understanding for Hydropower (MOU) signed on March 24, 2010.

At a signing ceremony at the Department of the Interior, the agencies celebrated the accomplishments of the first five years of this partnership, and recognized the value of continued collaboration driven by a detailed, shared action plan. The partnership will help meet the need for reliable, affordable and environmentally sustainable hydropower by strengthening a long-term working relationship, sharing priorities, and aligning ongoing and future renewable energy development efforts across the agencies.

Source: Department of Energy, 3/24/15

Register for the 2015 SEPA Utility Solar Conference

The Solar Electric Power Association is inviting utilities from every point on the solar power learning curve to come to San Diego, California, April 27-29 for the [Utility Solar Conference](#) (USC).

The annual meeting brings together power providers interested in improving, expanding or developing a viable long-term solar strategy. Because registration is restricted to employees of utilities only, attendees will have the opportunity to share their experiences and exchange ideas in a relaxed, informal atmosphere.

Source: Western Area Power Administration Energy Services Bulletin, 3/16/15

Green Power Partners Commit to On-Site Renewables as Part of White House Challenge

As part of President Obama's Clean Power Plan, the White House, along with the support of several federal agencies, is calling on leaders across our economy to make tangible commitments that support the deployment and use of on-site renewable energy. In response, the Green Power Partnership has launched the On-Site Renewables Challenge. The Challenge's goal is to double Green Power Partners' on-site green power use by the end of the decade.

As a component of the On-site Renewables Challenge, EPA is highlighting Partners' increased commitments to deploy on-site renewable energy in support of the Challenge. As of January 2015, eight Green Power Partners – Apple, BD, Cisco, City of Beaverton (OR), Jackson Family Wines, Kaiser Permanente, USDA, and Wal-Mart – have made commitments to on-site green power.

Source: EPA Green Power Partnership, 3/10/15

New Online Training Courses Help Agencies Understand Renewable Tech

The Department of Energy is working with the federal government's agencies to help them lead by example when it comes to using renewable energy technologies that cut carbon emissions and save money. Our Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) provides assistance and training to help everyone make smart energy choices that support national energy goals.

One of FEMP's most effective ways to help federal agencies achieve energy saving goals is through robust education and training. Several updated courses on Renewable Energy Technology Applications are available online. From solar to wind, small-scale hydropower, and bioenergy, these training modules support agencies' efforts to improve energy security, reduce environmental impact, while providing electricity, heating, cooling, and more.

Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 3/2/15

SEI Honors Graduating Marines and Sailors - DOE Reach for the Sun

Solar Energy International (SEI) is pleased to announce the first graduating class as part of the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) "Reach for the Sun" military solar training pilot program. This solar training program's goal is to provide military personnel who are transitioning out of active duty with the technical skills needed to become leaders in the world's clean energy economy.

Through the Solar Instructor Training Network (SITN), SEI led the training program for 20 Marines and Sailors from Camp Pendleton through a four-week intensive training. The training consisted of classroom and hands-on training, which culminated in the participating military personnel taking the NABCEP Entry Level Exam. In addition, a career day was held to connect the program participants to jobs, thus closing the loop from training to entering the renewable energy workforce. Vivint Solar, SolarCity, SunPower,

SunEdison, and Sunrun each interviewed the participants and by the end of the day, many of our service members had job offers.

Source: Solar Energy International, via Facebook, 2/16/15

Visit U.S. DOE EERE [Green Power Network](#) for more information.

Reports and Studies

[FERC releases Office of Energy Projects Energy Infrastructure Update](#)

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has released the first update of 2015 on energy projects throughout the United States. The report covers natural gas, hydropower and electric generation activities.

Source: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 3/26/15

[Renewable energy isn't boosting electric bills study contends](#)

Renewable energy is seen as the culprit behind higher electricity bills by Colorado Republican lawmakers, but a new study contends it just ain't so.

The Colorado Senate passed a bill rolling back the state's renewable energy standard – which requires that investor-owned utilities get 30 percent of their energy from renewable sources by 2020 and rural electric coops to get 20 percent — to 15 percent for both.

"We want to make sure we're not pushing the envelope so far that we're hurting consumers, especially the rural consumers," said the sponsor, Sen. Ray Scott, R-Grand Junction.

Source: The Denver Post Balance Sheet, 3/23/15

[Direct Federal Financial Interventions and Subsidies in Energy in Fiscal Year 2013](#)

This report responds to a September 2014 request to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) from U.S. Representative Fred Upton, Chairman of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, and U.S. Representative Ed Whitfield, Chairman of its Subcommittee on Energy and Power, for an update reflecting Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 data of two earlier EIA reports on direct federal financial interventions and subsidies in energy markets covering FY 2007 and FY 2010.

Source: US Energy Information Administration, 3/12/15

[New resources added to Renewable Development Tools](#)

Western's Renewable Energy Program helps its customers explore options for adding sustainable energy to their portfolios. The program website has added new tools to aid visitors with their research. Check out the [Renewable Development Tools](#) page to find links to resource maps, data bases and modeling tools.

Source: Western Area Power Administration Renewable Energy Program, 3/12/15

Is Wind Energy Right for You?

The Northwest Wind Resource & Action Center has published a checklist for consumers who would like to install a small wind turbine to power their home or business. Make sure you can answer yes to the questions before you make the investment.

Source: Northwest Wind Resource & Action Center, 3/12/15

Deploying Distributed Energy Storage: Near-term Regulatory Considerations to Maximize Benefits

Since the market for distributed energy storage is still in its infancy, there is a significant need for regulatory guidance and proactive policies to ensure a smooth integration into the existing electrical system. A report released today by IREC offers independent insight on how to address these new challenges – and opportunities – in the regulatory arena.

As the percentage of electricity generated from renewable energy sources continues to grow in the U.S., particularly from solar photovoltaic (PV) systems, technologies that can facilitate increased deployment of renewable energy, such as distributed energy storage, are front and center in state and national discussions.

Source: Interstate Renewable Energy Council, 3/11/15

Find Energy Incentives Quicker and Easier with DSIRE Open Data and Website

All across the United States, homeowners and businesses are saving money by installing technologies that conserve energy and cut carbon pollution. Upgrades such as new, energy-saving appliances and rooftop photovoltaic systems also help lower the nation's overall energy usage and reduce environmental impacts like harmful greenhouse gas emissions.

To empower more Americans to realize the benefits of clean energy technologies and solutions, government agencies offer several financial incentive programs that can reduce or defray installation or purchase costs. In an effort to help citizens quickly find these opportunities the Energy Department established the Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency (DSIRE) 20 years ago. The database is operated by the N.C. Clean Energy Technology Center at North Carolina State University.

Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 3/2/15

Find more [publications and webinars](#).

Funding

Grant Program to Assess, Evaluate, and Promote Development of Tribal Energy and Mineral Resources

**IEED Energy and Mineral Development Program Grants
Applications Due: June 23, 2015**

The Secretary of the Interior, through the Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development (IEED), is soliciting grant proposals from federally recognized Indian tribes and tribal energy resource development organizations for projects that assess, evaluate, or otherwise promote processing, using, or developing energy and mineral resources on Indian lands.

Grant recipients must use funds for the development of a tribal energy and mineral resource inventory, a tribal energy and mineral resource on Indian land, or for the preparation of a report necessary to develop energy and mineral resources on Indian lands. Evaluation of applications will promote community-scale energy development. Local-impact power generation promotes sovereignty; energy independence; security; reliability; diversification; environmental benefits; sustainability; and stronger Native economies. Submit grant proposals via [email](#) (preferred), Attention: Bernie Toyekoyah. You may also mail proposals to Bernie Toyekoyah at 1 Mile North on Highway 281, P.O. Box 368, Anadarko, OK 73005. **All proposals must be received by June 23.**

Direct questions about the EMDP program or the application process to [Rebecca Naragon](#), 202-208-4401.

Source: US DOE Tribal Energy Program, 3/26/15

Weekly Federal Funding Opportunities Update

Ten opportunities totaling over \$179 million in federal financial assistance were released this week, soliciting proposals in the major program areas of:

- Academic Programs
- Alternative & Renewable Energy
- Carbon Capture & Storage
- Combined Heat & Power
- Cybersecurity
- Department of Defense Energy
- Energy Efficiency
- Natural Gas & Oil
- Nuclear Energy

View a list of opportunities that have been released since March 3, 2015, as well as those expiring by March 30, 2015.

Source: Van Ness Feldman, 3/10/15

Funding and Technical Assistance Opportunities

[DOI Bureau of Indian Affairs Request for Proposals for Tribal Climate Change Adaptation and Planning Projects](#)

Applications Due: April 24, 2015

Eligible entities: Federally recognized tribes

The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) Bureau of Indian Affairs is making up to \$8 million available to support tribal climate change adaptation and ocean and coastal management planning. Each winning proposal will receive no more than \$250,000.

Applicants may request funding for the following:

- Training and workshops
- Climate adaptation planning
- Travel

- Ocean and coastal management planning.

[DOE Office of Indian Energy Announces Round 3 of START Renewable Energy Project Development Assistance](#)

Applications Due: May 1, 2015

DOE's Office of Indian Energy is accepting applications for the third round of the Strategic Technical Assistance Response Team (START) Renewable Energy Project Development Assistance Program to provide tribes with technical assistance to further the development of community- and commercial-scale renewable energy projects.

START will provide tribal project teams and tribal legal/finance specialists with long-term technical assistance focused on helping them reach a late-stage development decision point or milestone to advance a project toward development.

Source: DOE Tribal Energy Program, 3/5/15

[Weekly Federal Funding Opportunities Update](#)

Seven opportunities totaling over \$68.5 million in federal financial assistance were released this week, soliciting proposals in the major program areas of:

- Alternative & Renewable Energy
- Biofuels
- Carbon Capture & Storage
- Cybersecurity
- Transportation & Infrastructure
- Wildlife, Conservation, & Fisheries

View a list of opportunities that have been released since February 24, 2015, as well as those expiring by March 23, 2015.

Van Ness Feldman has helped clients secure nearly \$3 billion in federal funding for projects in recent years. The firm's lawyers and policy professionals are experienced in every step of the funding process, including developing and implementing strategies for securing funding from both Congress and federal agencies, assisting with funding applications, negotiating funding agreements, and managing ongoing reporting and compliance requirements.

For more information on this funding opportunity update, the firm's capabilities in this area, or to request coverage of additional opportunities, please visit our [Knowledge Center](#) or contact [Shannon Angielski](#), [Tracy Nagelbush](#) or any member of the firm's Federal Funding Practice at 202-298-1800.

Source: Van Ness Feldman, 3/2/15

Find more [funding sources](#).